

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05750 161510 Z

43 40

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 INSE-00 TRSE-00 CPR-02 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 VO-03 SCA-01 /034 W

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R 161440 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4398

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5750

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJ: PROTEST OF CUSTOMS INSPECTION

1. THE AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM PROFESSOR G. G. SWELL, DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE LOK SABHA, PROTESTING U. S. CUSTOMS EXAMINATION OF HIS LUGGAGE IN MIAMI, FLORIDA ON MAY 5 AFTER ARRIVAL FROM GRAND CAYMAN ISLAND ON FLIGHT KX-042. PROFESSOR SWELL STATES HE WAS CARRYING A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT WHICH HE SHOWED TO CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. HE REQUESTS ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1) " IS IT THE PRACTICE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR CUSTOMS OFFICERS TO SEARCH THE LUGGAGE OF THE DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL OR OF PERSONS TRAVELLING ON DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS?"

2) " DO DIFFERENT LAWS IN RESPECT OF CUSTOMS OPERATE IN MIAMI AS AGAINST THE REST OF THE UNITED STATES?"

3) " IS ANY DISTINCTION MADE BY YOUR GOVERNMENT BETWEEN DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS ISSUED BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND SIMILAR PASSPORTS ISSUEDBY OTHER GOVERNMENTS?"

2. WE WOULD LIKE THE DEPARTMENT' S GUIDANCE ON THE AMBASSADOR' S RESPONSE TO THE FOREGOING. WE PLAN TO SEND A WRITTEN REPLY AND TO SUPPLEMENT IT WITH A VISIT FROM AN EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 05750 161510 Z

SCHNEIDER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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